

February 15, 2016

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 713-6410

Re: Testimony on HB 5004 5044

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Members of the Committee:

I am a parent of a preschool child at the Childcare Learning Center in Stamford, CT.

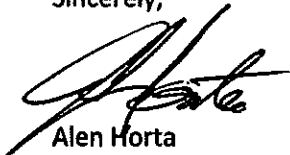
I believe that the state funded programs need to continue to be funded.

My wife and I are both able to work thanks to the high quality NAEYC accredited preschool program offered near to our house.

Living on the edge of an immigrant neighborhood, in a city growing as rapidly as Stamford has been, it is highly important to me that this program continue to be available to both my family and my neighbors. In addition to general knowledge gained by the socialization preschool provides, this program helps many local children learn the English language, improve their personal hygiene, and learn about nutrition, all under the guise of preparing for kindergarten. As a native Spanish speaker myself, it is important to me that my child learn to speak English as the native she is, but it is immensely helpful that so many teachers and other children in this preschool also speak Spanish, to help my child feel more comfortable when she experiences the highs and lows of learning new things and making new friends.

Please continue to provide the much-needed funding so this program can continue to play an important role of support and education in our local community.

Sincerely,



Alen Horta
72 Hillandale Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902